

SECRETNPIC/TSSG/DED-1479-69
17 January 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Monitoring Trip to [REDACTED]

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1. On 10 January 1969, the [REDACTED] was visited to monitor the Split-Format 1540 Light Table contract [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were contacted, and the Agency was represented by [REDACTED] [REDACTED] demonstrated a working mock-up of the proposed drive system for the light table, and another mock-up showing the general configuration and size of the completed prototype.

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2. [REDACTED] advises that their engineering group has been assigned the deadline of 20 January 1969 to complete the design and produce detailed drawings of the light table. The group is supposedly working 10 or 12 hours a day, six or seven days a week to meet this deadline. [REDACTED] tells us privately that this deadline may be somewhat stringent and the group may not complete work by that date. He schedules completion of the prototype by 27 January for demonstration, with pre-acceptance testing during the following week. Delivery of the table to the Agency is supposed to be on or about 3 February. However, a purchased part has as yet not been received by [REDACTED] If this part is late, delivery of the prototype slips.

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3. Manufacturing of the table is not expected to be a problem and supposedly will keep up with the production of drawings. Therefore, the shop people are not on overtime and do not have any deadline. However, having observed [REDACTED] job-shop operation and reviewing some of their time estimates in connection with the 940 table, it seems questionable that there will not be any substantial lag between completion of drawings and completion of hardware.

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4. [REDACTED] has apparently finally started to work seriously on the project -- some nine weeks after the contractual delivery date for the prototype of 1 November 1968. Exactly the reason for this sudden panic of activity is unknown but intriguing. In view of the questions in sections two and three above, delivery of prototype on 3 February may or may not be accomplished. It would appear very possible that delivery may slip until the following week or until the week of 17 February.

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